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Correspondence

Michael Balint

Sir,

As the last general practitioner out of the Balint stable, may I applaud your timely and perceptive editorial? (*March Journal*). You are right when you say, "General practice will never be quite the same again".

However, I feel you have not emphasised sufficiently just how universal Michael Balint's influence has been. His teaching and ideas have transcended national frontiers and the barriers of language. A visiting medical student from Brazil amazed me by her familiarity with his work and insisted on accompanying me to his seminar. It may be fair to say that his ideas are even better known abroad than they are in this country at the present time.

In view of your remarks about the relationship between Jewishness and psychoanalysis, and Balint's own insistence that "negative findings

must be included" it is important to make the following observation. At the recent International Conference of the Balint Society held at the Royal College of Physicians in London in March, 17 different countries sent delegations. The one country conspicuous by its absence was Israel.

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Appointing a Partner

Sir,

I was fascinated to read Dr B. Graham's paper *Appointing a Partner* (*February Journal*). The thoroughness of his method and the fair assessment will surely make this work a standard